Cost escalation of delayed projects

1017. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state;

(a) the name of the implementing agency in each project costing Rs. 20 crores or more alongwith the original sanctioned cost and the latest cost overrun estimate; and

(b) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) and (b) Attention of the Hon'ble Member is invited to pages 149-194 of the Annual Report of the Ministry of Programme Implementation for the year 1987-88, which give *inter alia* the relevant details.

Data received from the IRS-IA

1018. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the data and other useful information besides the photos received by the IRS—IA so far; and

(b) whether any steps have been initiated on the basis of the data and other information received to tap the ground water resource?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) IRS-1A Satellite has successfully imaged the whole of India once, with the Linear Imaging Self Scanning (LISS-I) (70 M) Camera and LISS-II (36 M) resolution camera. The second coverage cycle has commenced.

(b) After technical evaluation, IRS-1A satellite data will be used for various resources management applications including ground water exploration.

Development of digital facsimile system

1019. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Electronic Corporation of India has developed a system called digital facsimile system;

(b) if so, when such system was developed and experimented;

(c) the result of the experiment and its economic implication;

(d) whether it is economically viable; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to introduce such system expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) ECIL manufactures and sells Digital Facsimile with know-how from Japan.

(b) ECIL Digital Facsimile was experimented and approved by the Department of Telecommunications for use on switched telephones network during 1987.

(c) This results were satisfactory and the system is economical.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) 90 systems have already been marketed by ECIL. Steps are being taken to introduce an improved version.

Holding of Lok Adalats in the High Courts

1020. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to hold Lok Adalats in the High Courts; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Lok Adalats are organised and monitored by the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards in the country with the help of voluntary agencies. In all eight Lok Adalats mainly, in respect of Motor Accident Claims Tribunal cases pending before the High Courts have already been organised in some States. The Andhra Pradesh State Legal Aid Board is also contemplating to organise a Lok Adalat for such cases as also Land Acquisition appeals pending in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh.

Setting up of a Soft Ware Unit

1021. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a soft ware unit at Bombay in collaboration with Siemens;

(b) if so, the cost of the project;

(c) what is the estimated foreign exchange that proposed unit would be able to earn; and

(d) whether Siemens wants to diversify its activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Promotional Channel for Direct Entry JCO's

1022. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Direct Entry JCOs of Military Engineering Services suffer loss as a result of current promotion policy; and

(b) whether Government propose to open promotional channel for Direct Entry JCOs of MES upto the level of Assistant Engineer, if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The direct entry Junior Commissioned Officers of Military Engineer Services enter the Deptts. in the rank of Nb Subedar and have prospects of promotion to the rank of Subedar Major, the highest rank in JCO cadre. A provision also exists for these officers for grant of permanent commission in the special list or Regimental Commission as officers as per the prescribed selection procedure. Their promotion is not linked with appointment of Assistant Engineer, which is filled by promotion from civilian Superintendents B|R or E|M Gde. I.